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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/784,891	02/24/2004	Hirotsomi Nemoto	107348-00393	9987
4372 7590 08/05/2010				
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SUITE 400				
WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
EXAMINER				
EPFS, TODD MICHAEL				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3632				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/05/2010		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

DCIPDocket@arentfox.com
IPMatters@arentfox.com
Patent_Mail@arentfox.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/784,891

Applicant(s)

NEMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

TODD M. EPPS

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/22)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first Office Action after Request for Continued Examination (**RCE**) for serial number 10/784,891, Anti-Vibration Support System For Engine, filed February 24, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 11, line 11, it is not clear what the applicant meant by this language: "to permit the engine to operate in an all-cylinder operational state".

Claims 12-22 are rejected as inherently depending on rejected claim 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,422,546 B1 to Nemoto et al. (Nemoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,427,662 to Tanaya et al (Tanaya).

Nemoto discloses an elastic member (14), a liquid chamber (24), a movable member (20), an actuator (29), wherein the vibration of the engine is prevented from being transmitted to a vehicle body frame by controlling a supply of electric current (U) to actuator (29); an elastic member (14) is formed from rubber; the movable member (20) is vertically movable and includes a shaft portion extending into an actuator (29); an actuator (29) includes an outer shell defined by an actuator housing (30); a yoke (32) is fixed to a lower portion of an actuator housing (30), and a coil (34); a disk-shaped armature (38) is slidably supported on an inner peripheral surface of an actuator housing (30) and opposite an upper surface of a coil (34); a biasing member (42) is disposed between an armature (38) and a bobbin (33) around which coil (34) is wound and biases an armature upward; a cylindrical slider (43) is slidably fitted a cylindrical portion of a yoke (32) and includes a boss (44) to which a shaft portion (20a) of a movable member (20); a cylindrical bearing (36) is slidably fitted between a cylindrical portion of a yoke (32) and a cylindrical slider (43); a coiled biasing member (41) is disposed between a cylindrical bearing (36) and a cylindrical slider (43), and a coiled biasing member biases a cylindrical bearing (36) and cylindrical slider (43) in respective opposite directions. However, Nemoto '546 discloses the previous invention failing to specifically teach wherein a cylinder suspension of the engine is prohibited to permit the engine to operate in an all-cylinder operational state when an abnormality in an

operational state of an active anti-vibration supporting device is detected. Nevertheless, Tanaya '662 discloses a knock control apparatus with a detector for extracting a vibration in the event that the frequency of abnormalities exceeds a predetermined value, the knock control is prohibited, knock detection can be made even immediately following noise, and further knock control is prohibited when judgment is made that the abnormality detected is not an instantaneous abnormality, so the engine can be operated in a safer manner (col. 9, lines 6-15). Although, Nemoto '546 discloses an electronic control unit (U) with different measurement sensors (S), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the control unit of Nemoto '546 to be programmable to include the control apparatus with a detector as taught by Tanaya '662 because one would have motivated to provide communication to the actuator to reduce the vibration of the engine, which allows the engine to be operated in a safer manner.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection – See 112-2nd rejection above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TODD M. EPPS whose telephone number is (571)272-8282. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrell McKinnon can be reached on 571-272-4796. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T.M.E./

Todd M. Epps
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3632
July 29, 2010

/Alfred Joseph Wujciak III/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3632